

# Activity

- \* Within your group, solve the puzzle that has been assigned to you by Ms Kropac

\* Groups that received an advantage:

\* How did you feel? Did you consider sharing?

\* Groups that did not receive an advantage

\* How did you feel? Would you resort to cheating?

# Use your whiteboard to answer these questions

- \* In our society, think of some 'advantages' (silent or not) that may be provided to different groups of people

# Social Stratification

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# Social Stratification

- \* **Social stratification:** how individuals and groups are layered or ranked in society according to how many valued resources they possess



# Social Stratification

- \* Social Stratification is:
  - \* an ongoing sorting process
  - \* legitimated by cultural beliefs

# Social Stratification

- \* There are three basic ways we sort into classes in our society
  - \* Economic
  - \* Prestige
  - \* Power

	Economic	Prestige	Power
Upper Class	Affluence Economic security		
Lower Class	Destitution Worthlessness on economic market		





	Economic	Prestige	Power
Upper Class	<p>Affluence</p> <p>Economic security</p>	<p>-Occupational Prestige</p> <p>-Greater Fulfillment</p>	
Lower Class	<p>Destitution</p> <p>Worthlessness on economic market</p>	<p>-No occupational prestige</p> <p>-Sense of isolation and despair</p>	



	Economic	Prestige	Power
Upper Class	<p>Affluence</p> <p>Economic security</p>	<p>-Occupational Prestige</p> <p>-Greater Fulfillment</p>	<p>-Power to determine policy</p> <p>-Control over distribution of wealth</p>
Lower Class	<p>Destitution</p> <p>Worthlessness on economic market</p>	<p>-No occupational prestige</p> <p>-Sense of isolation and despair</p>	<p>-Lack of legal resources or rights</p>



# Theories Explaining Stratification

- \* 1) Symbolic Interaction
- \* Individuals learn their social position through socialization



Write this  
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# Theories Explaining Stratification

- \* 1) Symbolic Interaction
- \* Individuals learn their social position through socialization
- \* Cultural capital influences children's school and home environments
- \* Symbols also often represent social positions

# Theories Explaining Stratification

- \* **2) Structural Functionalism**
- \* Stratification within societies is an inevitable and necessary, part of the social world



Write this  
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# Theories Explaining Stratification

## \* 2) Structural Functionalism

\* Stratification within societies is an inevitable and necessary part of the social world

\* The stratification system provides each individual a position in the social world

\* The stratification system motivates individuals to carry out their roles

## \* Davis and Moore:

- \* Some positions are more highly valued because people feel they are very important to society
- \* Societies must motivate talented individuals to occupy the most important positions
- \* Differential rewards must be offered to attract the most qualified individuals into the most valued positions

# Theories Explaining Stratification

- \* **3) Conflict Theory**

- \* **Bases on Marxism, two economically-based social classes**



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# Theories Explaining Stratification

## \* 4) Evolutionary Theory

\* Valued items are always in demand and in short supply

\* There is likely to be a struggle over these scarce goods

\* Customs and traditions determine the distribution of scarce resources



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# Types of Stratification

- \* In ascribed stratification systems individuals are born with characteristics that determines ones position in society
- \* In achieved stratification systems individuals are allowed to earn positions through their ability and effort



Write this  
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# Ascribed Status

- \* Caste systems are rigid, maintained by cultural norms and social control mechanisms

Write this  
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# Ascribed Status

- \* Estate system: characterized by the concentration of economic and political power
- \* Estate systems are based on:
  - \* Ownership of land
  - \* Position one is born into



Write this  
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# Achieved Status

- \* Seen in Canadian society
- \* Status based on:
  - \* Property, Power, Prestige



Write this  
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# Poverty

- \* In a group discuss:
  - \* Is there a function to poverty? What purpose may it serve to our society?

# Poverty

- \* Possible Functions
  - \* Provides a 'scapegoat' for societal problems
  - \* Provides available group of laborers
  - \* Creates jobs
  - \* Reaffirms the values of the affluent